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"Inside Out." *Present Prison Systems and their Effects on Society and the Criminal*, by RICHARD VAUX. Philadelphia, 1888. pp. 31.

The writer expresses in a popular and vigorous way the following ideas: For certain crimes, as murder, arson, burglary and obstructions on railroads, in which life is lost or put in peril, the *penalty* should be death—not the *punishment*, for such crimes are beyond the limits of those violations of law for which punishment should be applied. Crime is largely the outgrowth of vicious social influences. State trade-schools with no locks, bars and bolts is a practical preventative to crime. There is a morbid humanitarianism—too much sympathy for the criminal, and too little for the friends of the victim. The state is tired of supporting individuals who ought to have been hung. The intermediate sentence, and qualified discharge before expiration of sentence, is not good; for the oversight after the discharge is not practical. However, in the case of first offenders with whom the prison authority is thoroughly acquainted, the prisoner might be released. The present system is administered by force. It should be turned inside out to discover what is bad, and to gain what is best.

The Chronicles of Crime, by CAMDEN PELHAM, Esq. London, 1886.
2 vols.

The author gives a series of memoirs and anecdotes of notorious criminals in Great Britain from earliest times to 1841. He thinks that the representation of guilt with its painful consequences is one of the best means of warning the young against the danger of temptation. To carry out this purpose, care has been taken to omit matter unfit for general reading. The earlier pages have been taken from sources peculiarly within the reach of the author. In comparing the offences with those of later date the dreadful crimes and brutal punishments are rare. The following are a few cases: execution for high treason; guilty of manslaughter, burnt in the hand; guilty of stealing a horse or cow, executed by having the beast pull out the peg that allows the ax to fall; 1921 women strangled and burned for counterfeiting; burnt alive for murder of husband; convicted of rape, not punished through influence of friends; executed for attempting to poison; executed for robbing the mails. Most of the cases are those of murder. The benefit of reading details of this nature seems doubtful in the case of the young. The less the young read about or witness cruelty, the better.

Report of the Standing Committee on Crimes and Penalties, to the National Conference of Charities and Corrections held at Louisville, Ky. 1883. pp. 15.

The report is especially valuable on account of the consensus of opinion. The general conclusion is: To make the laws such, that the criminal must either reform or be kept under restraint; to make prison structures roomy enough to allow of classification and efficient educational work; to permit conditional release; the reforming of the prisoner, and not the production of revenue should be the aim. Inefficiency of punishment is largely due to the spirit of retaliation in penal law, for this causes a counter retaliation on the part of the criminal. The professional criminal regards penalties as a business risk; the criminal by occasion forgets them at the moment of the act; the cranks are too absorbed in their wild ideas; the criminal by nature will commit crime in spite of them, because he likes to. Some existing defects are: Bad condition of station-houses and jails; Pensylvanian system of separate confinement is the only true plan; want of graduated prison system with conditional release; contract system bad; "Piece-price plan," where contractor furnishes machinery and material is a good substitute for public account plan, where the state furnishes the capital. There